

- 1 NOV 1962

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1961.

Report Represented by

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Health Inspector

Hertford Rural District.

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1961.

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
<u>PREFACE</u>	4
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT</u> - Staff - Committee ...	5
<u>SECTION A.</u>	
VITAL STATISTICS Etc:	
Population)	
Area in Acres)	
No. of Inhabited Houses)	Table 1 ... 6
Rateable Value)	
Product of Penny Rate)	
Births and Birth Rate)	
Deaths and Death Rate)	Table 2 ... 7
Rates for England & Wales)	
INFECTIOUS DISEASE - Prevalence of and Control ...	8/9
Deaths - Causes of, during 1961 ...	10
<u>SECTION B.</u> - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES ...	11/12
Laboratory Service - County Council Health Services, Hospital, Medical and Dental Service, other Services.	
<u>SECTION C.</u> - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA ...	13/18
Report of the Senior Health Inspector.	

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1961.

P R E F A C E.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hertford Rural District for the year 1961.

1961 has been a year of good health with an emphasis on preventive medicine.

School children between 8 and 12 years have been given their fourth injection against poliomyelitis so as to give greater protection to the most vulnerable section of the community. Most of these were given in school and this was particularly appreciated in rural areas.

Nearly all babies have received, or been offered, ante tetanic injections which is of great importance in a rural community.

The only notifiable infectious disease to occur in any number was measles and this, although prevalent, was not of a very virulent variety. German measles was rife throughout the whole area. This disease is to be welcomed, despite its nuisance value, in school girls so as to prevent congenital abnormalities occurring as a result of Rubella in early pregnancy.

With the plans for Glebe Court progressing the Health Visitors have been assessing possible candidates and I hope to have a nucleus of names when the building is ready for occupation.

I should like to thank your Council for all their willing assistance during the Year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Joan E. Crawley,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. Joan E. Crawley.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. R. Helen Schulz.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector. D. R. HOWE.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department.

Council Offices,

Wallfields,

Pegs Lane,

HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone: Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Health Department were carried out by Mrs I. M. Ball, Mrs R. E. Swallow and Mrs K. W. Everett.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman of which for the Session 1961/62 was Councillor The Rev. Canon S. Bradney.

Sub-standard housing was dealt with by the Housing Maintenance and Improvements Committee, the Chairman of which for the Session 1961/62 was Councillor Mr. C. J. Tucker.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1961.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1960 are shown in brackets).

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District:-

Registrar General's			
Estimate ...	10,060	(9,450)	
Natural Increase or decrease	...	+ 390	
Migration in or out	...	+ 220	
Total Increase or decrease	...	+ 610	

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres 31,746.

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books:-

3126

Number of Houses per acre.	0.09
Number of Persons per acre.	0.31
Number of Persons per house.	3.21

Rateable Value of District £102,133.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £404.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1961.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1960 are shown in brackets)

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 17.96 (16.19)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 0.97 (1.01)

<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Total:</u>	91	76	167
Legitimate	89	71	160
Illegitimate	2	5	7
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	2	1	3

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 9.46 (9.94)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 1.11 (1.03)

<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>All Ages -- Total:</u>	44	46	90
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>	2	1	3
<u>No. under 4 weeks of age</u>	1	1	2
<u>No. under 1 week of age</u>	1	1	2

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 17.23 (14.2)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculoses) notified during 1961:-

Age group in years.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total all ages.</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Scarlet Fever	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	5	0	3	2	0	0	0
Measles	84	0	44	39	1	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	5	0	0	1	0	1	3
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	2	0

Incidence of Diseases during the different months.

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Month and Number of Cases.</u>			
Scarlet Fever	March (1)	September (1)	November (1).	
Whooping Cough	June (3)	September (2).		
Measles	January (1)	February (1)	March (14)	
	April (12)	May (17)	June (25)	July (4)
	August (1)	September (1)	October (5)	
	November (1)	December (2).		
Acute Pneumonia	January (1)	March (4).		
Erysipelas	February (1)	July (1).		

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1961:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Disease and Number of Cases.</u>	
Aston	Nil.	
Bayford	Measles (2).	
Benington	Measles (2).	
Bengeo Rural	Measles (15)	Whooping Cough (2).
Bramfield	Measles (5).	
Brickendon	Measles (1).	
Datchworth	Measles (14).	
Hertingfordbury	Measles (1).	
Little Amwell	Measles (1)	Scarlet Fever (2) Erysipelas (1).
Little Berkhamsted	Measles (1).	
Sacombe	Measles (6).	
Stapleford	Measles (3)	Whooping Cough (3) Acute Pneumonia (1) Erysipelas (1).
Tewin	Measles (17)	Scarlet Fever (1) Acute Pneumonia (1).
Walkern	Measles (1).	
Watton-at-Stone	Measles (15) Acute Pneumonia (3).	

TUBERCULOSIS

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc., during 1961.

The Year commenced with 58 names upon the Tuberculosis Register:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
<u>Males</u>	26	5
<u>Females</u>	21	6

No New Cases were notified.

There were six Inward Transfers from other areas.

<u>Males</u>	4	0
<u>Females</u>	2	0

One patient died.

<u>Males</u>	1	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

One patient left the District (Outward Transfers)

<u>Males</u>	1	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

Eight patients were pronounced CURED.

<u>Males</u>	3	0
<u>Females</u>	5	0

The year therefore ended with 54 cases on the Register:-

<u>Males</u>	25	5
<u>Females</u>	18	6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1961.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	ALL CAUSES	50	50
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0
11.	" " lung, bronchus	2	1
12.	" " breast	0	0
13.	" " uterus	0	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	5
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	2
16.	Diabetes	1	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	5	4
19.	Other heart disease	5	5
20.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	0
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	2
22.	Influenza	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	3
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	2	1
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	2	2
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age	2	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL.

Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

County Council Health Services.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946 are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 4. Welfare Centres : 7.

Mobile Clinics : 2.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis
Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

B.C.G. is also available to all children aged 13.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford. (Telephone: Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at the Health centre at Bull Plain, Hertford.

Chiropody Service.

A chiropody service is given by Mr. Parkin of 1, The Wash, Hertford (Hertford 2051) and also by Miss P. Lismer of 21, Castle Street, Hertford (Hertford 2300) at reduced costs for handicapped people, expectant mothers and old people by appointment.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 2222). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 2541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An occupation Centre for defective children has been well established in Hertford.

Hospital Services.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Practitioner Medical Services.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns and school dental clinics.

Other Services.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Introduction

During the year under review the development of the Council's activities has again been directed towards an improvement in the standard of environmental hygiene. It is apparent, however, that the rate of improvement will continue to decrease as standards of hygiene have progressed to a high standard generally during the post war years.

Water Supplies

Main water to the whole of the district, with exception of the Parish of Little Amwell, is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company. The Parish of Little Amwell is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year under review have been satisfactory.

A number of private supplies continued in operation and although the quality of the water provided was not always of such good bacterial quality as derived from the Council's mains, with one or two exceptions the quality is sufficiently good to leave little cause for anxiety on Public Health grounds.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year under review the Tewin Sewerage Contract continued. For a number of reasons progress was extremely slow and at the end of the year no houses were actually connected to the new sewer. The development of a large private housing estate in the area to be sewered meant that a considerable number of temporary cesspools had to be constructed pending the availability of the main sewers. The frequent emptyings thus incurred threw an additional burden on the cesspool emptying service and the number of loads of sewage removed was higher than for many years. Even so it was possible to dispose of cesspool emptier contents into the public sewers in the vast majority of instances in spite of the long hauls involved.

The Council continued to pursue their policy of providing main drainage wherever possible and during the year site surveys and general preparation continued with regard to Benington Parish Scheme and the Scheme for the Parish of Hertingfordbury.

Refuse Collection

A fortnightly service continued although plans were in hand to improve the collection to once every ten days and with this object in view a new Dennis Paxit refuse collector was purchased and taken into service.

The increase in the standard of living generally has meant that there has been a considerable increase in the amount of refuse to be collected and as the Council continued to tip refuse at Cole Green tip considerable journey and crew time was spent each day in disposing of the refuse. On occasions each vehicle tips twice in a day.

Development of Undertaking and Services.

The following Tables indicate the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Council's services.

SERVICE	31st MARCH, 1952.		YEAR ENDING 1961.	
	No.	Datum.	No.	% Datum.
No. of Houses.	2562	100	3237	126.2
<u>WATER</u>				
Houses with mains supply	2152	100	3168	-
<u>MAIN SEWERAGE</u>				
Houses connected	980	-	1953	199.8
Staff engaged	4.18	-	3.68	88.1
<u>CESSPOOL EMPTYING</u>				
Houses with cesspools.	1155	100	1014	87.54
Loads of sewage removed	824	100	1078	130.6
Staff engaged	2.4	100	2.83	117.9
<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>				
Houses served	2552	100	3231	126.7
Staff engaged	3.27	100	5.32	162.8

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY HEALTH INSPECTOR.

During the Year 1961.

Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food and Drugs Act:							
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Housing Acts:							
Inspections and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	380
Public Health Acts:							
Caravans	12
Complaints	1
Infectious Diseases	3
Nuisances	6
Refuse Collection	73

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Summary of Visits by Health Inspector (Cont.)

							b/f	815
Sewerage	753
Verminous Premises	0
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Petrol Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
							TOTAL ...	1,749

Food and Drugs Act.

Details of registrations and licences in force, and further particulars concerning other foods, are as below:-

							<u>Total</u>
<u>Ice Cream Premises.</u>							
Registered for Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
" " Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
" " Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

Preserved Foods

(a) Sausage Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Other Preserved Food Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Food Premises by type of business.

Bakery with shop	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cafe	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocery and General	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Office or industrial canteen	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotel	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Licenced Houses:

Full Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Off Licence only	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mineral Water Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry slaughterhouse and Packing Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gut Cleaning and Sausage Skin Dressing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cold Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year further progress was made towards eliminating unsatisfactory dwellings and in a number of instances schemes for the reconstruction of properties with Demolition Orders in force were agreed to by the Council and the Demolition Orders subsequently rescinded.

The Council continued their progressive policy to encourage Owners to improve their property with the aid of grants and during the period 19 Discretionary Grants totalling £6,330 and 17 Standard Grants totalling £2,413 were agreed to. Although the number of properties improved appears satisfactory compared with the Country as a whole it is still in the vast majority of cases the owner/occupied cottage which is improved and not the ordinary tenanted cottage. It is disturbing to appreciate that when the Council have gone to considerable expense over the past years to provide sanitation and water supplies, compulsory powers in respect of improvements to properties are limited.

In the present affluent society it seems quite wrong that rate payers who have to contribute towards the cost of improvements throughout the district should not benefit from them. Standards throughout the Country are obviously rising and people are beginning to expect the same standard of amenity in a privately owned dwelling as they would receive in a Council owned property. In past years the poverty of the tenant who could not afford an increased rental to cover the cost of the improvements was often a stumbling block towards improvement of any particular cottage. This is no longer the case; the vast majority of tenants are able and willing to pay their share of the cost of improvements if the owner could be persuaded to do so.

The very great demand on the services of builders throughout the district has meant that there has been a tendency for them to concentrate on new building works with a quick return of capital invested rather than to engage in difficult and time consuming alterations to existing dwellings. This has obviously been reflected in the highly inflated estimates received for conversion work and has tended to cause owners to defer improvement schemes in the hope that realistic tenders could be obtained at some future date.

Substandard Properties.

During the year good progress was made towards eliminating all unsatisfactory dwellings as shown in the following table:-

Demolition Orders made	4 (Total since 1955 - 150).
Reconditioning proposals accepted	2
Reconditioning completed	5
Houses demolished	25
Total visits made in connection)	
with surveys, demolition orders)	
and housing repairs was:-	609

Housing progress

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925):-

	<u>During 1961</u>	<u>Since 1945</u>
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	82	473
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	33
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	51	638
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc).	-	7
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON 31st MARCH, 1962.		
Council Houses	914	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	
Sundries	-	

Public Health Act, 1936.

A number of Public Health Nuisances were investigated during the year and the appropriate action taken.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years sewers were treated in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations but no major infestations were reported. By contrast surrounding districts were reported to have considerable increases in rat population and the Ministry of Agriculture circulars support this view.

So far as this district is concerned the increase in rat infestation has been marginal and of no significance.